



## 2005 Fact Sheet

Superintendent	Paul R. Anderson		
Established	February 26, 1917 (as Mount McKinley National Park)		
	December 2, 1980 (increased in size and name changed to Denali National Park and Preserve)		
	Denali is the Athabaskan name for Mount McKinley, and means “The High One.” Although McKinley is the mountain’s official name, “Denali” is the name favored by most Alaskans.		
Size	Park	4,690,680 acres	7,329.2 sq. miles
	Preserve	<u>1,337,523 acres</u>	<u>2,089.9 sq. miles</u>
		6,028,203 acres	9,419.1 sq. miles
	(For comparison: State of New Hampshire = 9,279 sq. miles, Vermont = 9,609 sq. miles and Massachusetts = 8,284 sq. miles)		
	Wilderness designation (most of original Mount McKinley National Park): 2,125,679 acres or 3,321.4 sq. miles		
	Perimeter (boundary, including new park and preserve): 605 miles or 974 kilometers		
Visitation	2004: 404,234 visitors		
	2003: 359,840		
	2002: 353,560		
Base Budget	\$10,842,000 (approximate), not including non-recurring research and construction projects.		
NPS Staffing	Permanent	100	
	Term	17	
	Seasonal	141	
	Volunteers (2004)	369 (contributed 40,732 hours of work)	
Campgrounds	RVs and/or tents:	3 campgrounds (232 sites)	
	Tents only:	3 campgrounds (42 sites)	
Park Road	Total length:	92 miles	148 kilometers
	Paved section:	14.8 miles	23.8 kilometers
Landmarks and Elevations			<u>Elevations above sea level</u>
	Denali Visitor Center		1,746 feet 532 meters
	Highway Pass (highest point on road)	3,980	1213
	Eielson Visitor Center	3,733	1138
	Wonder Lake Campground	2,090	637
	Mt. Foraker	17,400	5303.5
	Mt. McKinley--South Peak (highest point in North America)	20,320	6193.5
	-- North Peak	19,470	5934
	Lowest point (Yentna River at boundary)	200	61
Wildlife Species	Amphibians	1 (wood frog)	
	Mammals	39	
	Birds	167 species recorded; 119 breeding and 16 recorded as accidental	
	Fish	10 (including 3 salmon species)	
	Reptiles	0	

<b>Flora</b>	<p>Vascular plants: 754 species documented</p> <p>Tree species: 8</p> <p>Approximately 600 species of mosses, lichens and liverworts currently listed</p>
<b>Lakes and Streams</b>	<p>Largest is Chilchukabena Lake: 2.6 miles long, 2 miles wide, 2079 acres</p> <p>Wonder Lake: 2.6 miles long, 1/2 mile wide, 649 acres, 280 feet maximum depth</p> <p>Approximately 12,130 lakes and ponds in the park and preserve</p> <p>Miles of streams: 18,679</p>
<b>Glaciers</b>	<p>17% of park's land area is covered with glaciers.</p> <p>Largest glaciers are on south side of Alaska Range: Kahiltna, Ruth, Eldridge, Tokositna and Yentna (35-40 miles in length).</p> <p>Largest glacier on north side of Alaska Range is the Muldrow Glacier (34 miles long).</p> <p>Deepest measured glacier: Ruth Glacier, 3805 feet or 1160 meters.</p> <p>The surface ice of the Ruth Glacier moves about 0.95m (3.1 ft) per day.</p>
<b>Earthquakes</b>	<p>Number per year: about 700</p> <p>Average magnitude: 2.0. The 7.9 quake on November 3, 2002 was largest interior Alaska earthquake in state history.</p> <p>Depth: Over 50% between 0-15 km, but 32% between 90-130 km</p> <p>Location: most events occur within the Kantishna seismic cluster, in the northern foothills of the Denali range.</p>
<b>Weather</b>	<p>Average annual precipitation = 15 inches (park headquarters)</p> <p>Wettest months are June, July and August.</p> <p>Average annual snowfall = 80 inches (park headquarters)</p> <p>Coldest temperature recorded at headquarters: -54° F, February 5, 1999</p> <p>Highest temperature recorded at headquarters: 91° F, June 22, 1991</p> <p>Average January temperature = 2°F</p> <p>Average July temperature = 55°F</p> <p>Shortest day (December 21) = 4 hours, 21 minutes of daylight</p> <p>Longest day (June 21) = 20 hours, 49 minutes of daylight</p> <p>Number of years in cooperation with the National Weather Service: 80</p>
<b>Sled Dog Kennels</b>	<p>Kennels building constructed in 1929</p> <p>Number of adult dogs: 30 (4 retiring this year)</p> <p>Sled miles patrolled miles per winter: 3,000</p> <p>Sled dog demonstrations inaugurated in 1939</p> <p>2004 dog demonstration attendees: 39,941</p>
<b>Mt. McKinley Mountaineering Statistics (2004)</b>	<p>Number of climbers: 1,275 (Most climbers in one season: 1,305 in 2001)</p> <p>Number of climbers who reached top or "summit": 656</p> <p>Summit percentage: 51% (Average summit percentage: 51%)</p> <p>Rescues: 14</p> <p>Fatalities: 1 (Total number of fatalities since 1932: 93)</p>
<b>Notable Ascents</b>	<p>First summit of South Peak (true summit): June 7, 1913; Harper, Karstens, Stuck, Tatum</p> <p>First summit of North Peak: April 3, 1910; Anderson, Taylor</p> <p>First woman to summit: June 6, 1947; Barbara Polk Washburn</p> <p>First solo ascent: August 26, 1970; Naomi Uemura</p> <p>First winter ascent: February 28, 1967; Johnston, Davidson, Genet</p> <p>First solo winter ascent: February 12, 1984; Uemura (died on descent)</p> <p>First successful winter solo ascent completed: March 7, 1988; Tejas</p> <p>Oldest person to summit: July 5, 2004; Mario Locatelli, 71 years, 6 months old</p> <p>Youngest person to summit: June 17, 2001; Galen Johnston, 11 years old</p>



## Changes in Denali National Park and Preserve for 2005

This year brings with it a number of significant, long-awaited changes in the park, the culmination of years of public planning and hard work. New facilities in the entrance area will open, and the replacement of outdated facilities further out the road corridor will begin.

- The new 14,000 square foot Denali Visitor Center, located at Mile 1.2 on the Park Road on the old park hotel site, will open on a limited basis on Friday, May 27. It will be fully operational by mid-summer, when all the exhibits are installed. A grand opening event is scheduled for Thursday, August 18.
- Two new facilities to provide expanded visitor services near the Visitor Center will open this spring. The Denali Bookstore, with books and other sales items, will open Thursday, May 12. The Morino Grill food court will open Sunday, May 15.
- Hiking trails have been improved and expanded in the Visitor Center area, including the 15-minute Spruce Forest Trail loop and the 30-minute Morino Trail.
- The Murie Science and Learning Center at Mile 1.3 is the park's research and education center. It opened in 2004 and functions as the winter visitor center through Thursday, May 26. The hours of operation will be expanded from 10 -4 daily to 9 -5 as visitation increases in May. Registration and information on summer educational programs can be made by calling (907) 683-1269, toll-free at (888)-688-1269 or on the web at [www.denaliinstitute.org](http://www.denaliinstitute.org).
- The former Visitor Access Center (often referred to as the Visitor Center), located at Mile 0.6 on the Park Road, has been renamed the Wilderness Access Center. It opens for the season on Tuesday, May 10 and will be operated by park concessioner Doyon/ARMARK Joint Venture. The building will continue to serve as the park's transportation hub, where visitors can obtain campsite reservations and tickets for bus tours and shuttle bus trips into the park. The expanded Denali Natural History Tour will include a stop at the Center to see the film "Across Time and Tundra".
- Backcountry permits will be issued at the new Backcountry Information Center, adjacent to the Wilderness Access Center. Visitors will also be able to obtain backcountry hiking information, view the backcountry safety video, and purchase topographic maps for route planning. The facility will open for the season on Friday, May 20 with hours of operation from 9 – 6.
- Replacement of the deteriorating Eielson Visitor Center at Mile 66 is scheduled to begin by mid-summer 2005. The new visitor center is scheduled to open in 2008. During the construction period a route near the construction zone will provide safe access to trails and backcountry units for hikers.
- Visitor services for bus passengers, including an information center, bookstore and bus dispatch, will be provided in temporary facilities at the Toklat Rest Stop at Mile 53, where all buses will stop for a 30-minute break. Six new restrooms are being constructed as part of planned improvements to the rest stop, but running water will not be available.
- Buses will go to the Fish Creek Turnaround at Mile 63 during the construction period. Wonder Lake, Kantishna and camper buses will stop at Toklat and continue to their destinations further west.

For additional information call park headquarters from 8-4:30 daily at (907) 683-2294 or check the park website at [www.nps.gov/dena](http://www.nps.gov/dena).